

Message Text

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71 60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

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EB-11 L-03 AEC-11 RSR-01 /120 W

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S E C R E T BONN 9785

WHITE HOUSE FOR KISSINGER AND LAIRD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MINISTER LEBER VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM HIS STAFF THAT DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER PLANS TO LIMIT TO A RELATIVE FEW THE NUMBER OF SUBJECTS HE WILL RAISE IN WASHINGTON OVER JULY 17-18. BASICALLY LEBER WANTS TO USE HIS VISIT TO HAVE A LENGTHY TOUR D'HORIZON ON US THINKING ABOUT DEFENSE STRATEGY IN EUROPE, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE ISSUES WHICH HAVE ATTRACTED HIS ATTENTION IN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. THESE ISSUES ARE CONNECTED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WITH PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT, THE PENTAGON STUDIES AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS ABOUT THE NATO-WP BALANCE AT THE DPC MINISTERIAL. LEBER WANTS TO HAVE A BROAD RANGING DISCUSSION ABOUT THESE MATTERS WITH AN AIM TO CLARIFYING HIS UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT US DEFENSE THINKING. SPECIFICALLY, HIS STAFF EXPECTS HIM TO DISCUSS THE REASONS BEHIND OUR PROPOSAL TO REVIEW NUCLEAR DOCTRINE AND NATO STRATEGY AS SUGGESTED IN THE UNFINISHED TASKS SECTION OF THE FOREIGN POLICY

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REPORT AND WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE BY SUCH A REVIEW OR

STUDY. LEBER IS ALSO EXPECTED TO ASK ABOUT THE STATUS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SO-CALLED PENTAGON STUDIES AND OUR CURRENT THINKING ABOUT THE EAST-WEST MILITARY BALANCE. IN ADDITION HE WILL LIKELY RAISE MBFR ISSUES, BUT HE MAY RESTRICT HIS DISCUSSION TO THE INDIGENOUS FORCE ISSUE, I.E. THE PROBLEMS HE FORESEES WITH RESPECT TO MAINTAINING SUBSTANTIAL DEFENSE EFFORTS IN THE FRG, IF REDUCTIONS ARE LIMITED TO STATIONED FORCES.

2. AT THE MOMENT LEBER IS, WE UNDERSTAND, VERY SATISFIED WITH THE REPORTS HE HAS READ ABOUT THE SAN CLEMENTE MEETING; REPORTS FROM AMBASSADOR KRAPP, FRG NATO PERMREP, APPEAR TO HAVE REMOVED MUCH OF THE CONCERN WHICH HE AND HIS SENIOR MILITARY STAFFS EXPRESSED TO US AFTER US-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR WAR PREVENTION. LEBER ATTACHES THE SAME IMPORTANCE AS DID HIS PREDECESSOR, HELMUT SCHMIDT, TO THE NPG AND THE FRG'S VOICE IN CONSULTATIONS ABOUT THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. GERMAN CONCERN ABOUT THE US-SOVIET AGREEMENT STEMMED FROM THE FEAR THAT IT MIGHT AFFECT THE CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE ALLIANCE ON THE USE OF NUCLEARS. FOR THIS REASON, IT IS LIKELY THAT LEBER (OR HIS STAFF) WILL ASK SPECIFICALLY WHETHER ARTICLE VI OF THE AGREEMENT INCLUDES THE ATHENS GUIDELINES AND SUCH NPG DOCUMENTS AS THE INITIAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. LEBER ATTACHES MUCH IMPORTANCE TO HIS VISIT, VIEWING IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT MEETINGS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED WITH DR. KISSINGER AND FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE LAIRD. LEBER'S STAFF TOLD US THAT HE LOOKS AT EXCHANGE WITH BOTH KISSINGER AND LAIRD AS OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLAIN GERMAN VIEWS ABOUT OVERALL EUROPEAN TRENDS IN DEFENSE AFFAIRS, AND HE LOOKS FORWARD WITH GREAT PLEASURE TO MEETING WITH THEM.

HILLENBRAND

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